Applicant(s) Masaharu NODA et al.
Appl. No. 09/920,653

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is made to correct a typographical error and to eliminate the unnecessary sequence listing on pages 39 – 41. Examination on the merits of the application is requested. A marked up version showing the changes made is attached.

Date: 10/16/01

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Next, nerve cells in dorsal root ganglia were isolated. The dorsal root ganglia were prepared from wild-type and Na_v2 gene-deficient mice of 8-16 weeks of age. Nerve cells were dispersedly isolated from the dorsal root ganglia according to the method of Renganathan et al. (J Neu~~w~~rophysiol 84, 710-718, 2000). Before used for an ion imaging experiment, the dispersedly isolated nerve cells were cultured under the condition of the humidity of 100% and the temperature of 37°C, and with 5% of carbon dioxide, then adhered to the glass of culture plates. All nerve cells were confirmed to be Na_v2-positive by staining nerve cells of dorsal root ganglia derived from wild-type mice with the above-mentioned anti-Na_v2 antibody. The size of the dispersedly isolated nerve cells were comprised of 3 groups of small (25 micron or smaller in diameter: about 50%), medium (25 to 40 micron in diameter: about 40%), and large (40 micron or larger in diameter: about 10%). However, there was no difference between the materials isolated from wild-type and gene-deficient mice in the size, shape and survival rate of these 3 types of cell. The survival rate was verified by Tripan blue staining.